

*Stated Meeting, August 19, 1864.*

Present, seven members.

Judge SHARSWOOD, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from M. Morlot, dated Lausanne, 20th April, 1864.

A letter acknowledging publications was received from the Massachusetts Historical Society, Worcester, July 1st, 1864.

Letters of envoi were received from the Minister of Agriculture, &c., Paris, January 29th, and from the Light-house Board, Treasury Department, Washington, August 6th, 1864.

A letter requesting missing Proceedings was received from the Society of Antiquaries, London, July 15th, 1864.

Letters were read from Prof. Matile at the Smithsonian Institution, respecting thirty-four pieces from the archæological collection of the Society, casts of which are to be taken for general distribution.

A circular letter was received from E. Corter, Paris, June 21st, respecting the *Annuaire* of Count d'Hericourt.

A letter was received from Mr. Miller accepting his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of Mr. Gerhard, and one from Dr. Sparks excusing himself from his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of Mr. Quincy. On motion of Mr. Fraley, Mr. Everett was appointed in his stead.

Donations for the Library were received from M. v. Morlot, the Royal Astronomical and British Meteorological Society, the American Antiquarian and New Jersey Historical Societies, the Rensselaer Polytechnic and Franklin Institutes, Mr. Chase, Blanchard & Lea, Prof. Whitman, of Centre County, Pa., Col. Bache and the Light-house Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in California, and Santa Clara College, San Francisco.

Mr. James expressed his own and Mr. Lesquereux's satisfaction at the speedy publication of the first article in the XIIIth volume of the *Transactions*, on Californian Mosses; as its opportune distribution abroad had compelled the substi-

tution of American names, for English and German names already in the press and about to be fixed upon this interesting part of the present American Flora.

Mr. Chase stated that he looked with much interest for the confirmation of his views in regard to barometric fluctuations, from the investigations which M. Le Verrier, in his letter of June 8th, has proposed to undertake. The letter was communicated to the London Athenæum of June 25th by Admiral Fitzroy.

Mr. Lesley described, from private letters, the more recent discoveries of Prof. Desor, of Neuchâtel.

In April last, M. Desor's assistant, Mr. Benz, brought in from one of the localities of lake habitations, known as the "iron station," the first genuine human skull. M. Desor describes this skull as of a type as low as that from the Neanderthal cave, with slanting forehead and enormous circumorbital bones. Yet it undoubtedly belonged to a Helvetian, and one of large stature, for with it were obtained many Helvetian coins, lance-heads, &c., and four swords in ornamented scabbards.

In May, M. Desor carried out his long-entertained purpose of examining the Bavarian lakes, said by the German naturalists to contain no trace of *pilotis* remains; theories having been constructed to account for this curious limitation of the *pfahlbauten* to Switzerland. M. Desor visited his friend, Prof. v. Liebig, with assured confidence that all such theories were founded on a prime error of fact. In company with Mr. Benz and Prof. v. Siebold, the distinguished palæontologist of Bavaria, he visited the Lake of Starnberg, three Swiss miles from the capital, in which is an islet called the Isle of Roses, supporting the summer palace of the King. At the end of this islet, and running underneath it, *proving it to be artificial*, they found multitudes of piles, so well preserved that the rings of growth could be read; and among them quantities of antique pottery and cleft marrow-bones of five species of animals, among which were the horse, cow, stag, and hog. The excitement at Munich was very great; and the young King's government established a commission with v. Siebold at its head, who have explored already five of the Bavarian lakes, and discovered in them seven stations of lacustrine habitations, from which numerous relics of the *bronze* age also have

been dredged up, showing that it was synchronous or closely continuous with the so-called preceding Age of Stone.

Dr. Coates observed that, as he apprehended, well-known historical documents were omitted to be noticed, which yet bear upon these subjects. The transition from the brass to the iron age is indicated by Horace, and appears to have taken place, as in the migrations of the Dorians, with few if any battles. The heroes of the Iliad fight with large stones. A high state of civilization existed at the same time, as in the mention of Phoenicea, Mycenæ, and Tyre. A population being driven into a lake, and founding even a mighty city there, is exemplified by Mexico, according to the hieroglyphic records abstracted by Clavigero. Venice, also, though not situated in a lake, is a case of much analogy.

Dr. Coates reminded the Society of the general omission, as a fact in the history of the later geological age, of the narrative in Genesis of the destruction and deep depression of the cities and cultivated plain of Sodom, although preceded by the account of a great battle, with mention made of nine names of cities and eight of commanders, and connected with the account of Abraham, Lot, and Melchisedek.

Pending nomination No. 525, and new nominations Nos. 526, 527, 528, were read.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, September 16, 1864.*

Present, eight members.

Mr. LEA, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters accepting membership were received from Mr. J. F. Kirk, dated Dorchester, Massachusetts, August 25th; and from Dr. Louis Stromeyer, dated Hanover, July 25th, 1864.

A letter resigning membership was received from Mr. E. E. Law, dated Philadelphia, September 10th, 1864. On motion his resignation was accepted.

A letter asking to be excused from writing another